

(c) Modernisation of armed forces is a continuous process. The forces are provided with modern weapons and equipment to appropriately equip them for performing their assigned tasks. Ministry has also undertaken measures to indigenously develop and produce the required hardware and software to the maximum extent possible. As the research & development and indigenous production thereafter is a time consuming process, procurement of critical requirements of weapon systems and equipment needed on immediate basis is also allowed at times on the merits of a case. The Defence Procurement Procedure 2006 is followed in this regard.

DRDO labs are engaged in indigenous development of high technology weapon systems and platforms. There have been some delays in timely completion of some of the projects due to technological complexities, technological embargoes and sanctions imposed by the technologically advanced countries, lack of adequate infrastructure in the country, etc., DRDO has taken steps to speed up the process of completion of projects through multi-tier review mechanism, adopting 'concurrent engineering' and 'joint venture' approaches, involvement of users since starting of the projects etc.

Indian Soldiers in UN Peace-Keeping Force

†744. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian soldiers deployed in different countries in Peace-keeping Force, constituted under UN; and

(b) the term of their deployment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The number of Armed Forces personnel deployed in various United Nations (UN) peace-keeping missions is dynamic in nature and keeps varying on a continuous basis. A total of 8922 Indian personnel are deployed in various UN missions, at present. The terms and conditions of the personnel deployed in these missions are governed by the orders/instructions issued by the UN and Government of India in this regard.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.